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Labor Relations

AN equable labor scene will not be brought about by extravagant statements no matter who emits them. Union leaders are unwise to depict the creation of a climate of hate against them by the provincial government, for no government in its senses would be guilty of such a thing, yet their reaction to Works Minister Chant's wild generalities is not surprising. Mr. Chant invited such rebuttal for he was equally unwise in his remarks.

Nevertheless this episode does serve as a reminder of the growth of union power to a point which gives genuine concern to almost everyone. Everyone is involved when industrial unrest is rife and the welfare of B.C. and the people in it could be jeopardized by reckless use of such power. Responsible labor leaders must themselves feel that concern, for it is reflected on every hand among a public sometimes dismayed by seeming indifference to its lot. Many steadfast union workers must also wonder at times if their interests are well served by precipitate courses which turn public opinion against them.

Strikes in this modern age, for instance, when the status of labor is recognized, affirmed by statute and not to be depreciated, are a poor way of settling industrial disputes. The right of any worker to withhold his labor is not to be challenged, except when agreements are broken or the security of essential services are at stake; but all strikes come finally to an end and nothing but loss goes on in the interim. Under the aegis of government liaison, management and labor jointly should have been able by this time to reach a modus vivendi that would obviate the waste and hardship that most strikes bring in their train.

Paradoxically enough, labor's rightful claim to withhold labor is not matched by willingness to concede the same right for a worker to give his labor. The closed shop, for example, is a denial of a fundamental freedom. So is the growing extension of the sympathy strike, applied frequently as it is against plants unconnected with a dispute in question. Allied to this is the intimidation inherent in picket lines, which in turn deprive union workers themselves of the right to proffer their legitimate labor. One understands the principle of labor solidarity which induces men to observe the picket lines, but many of them must secretly have doubts of the wisdom and justice of such practice when it is carried to lengths which suggest that might is right.

Industrial peace is surely better than strife, and no one can be more anxious for it than the worker to whom a forced cessation of work means loss of pay and other deprivations. It is the seeming too-ready incidence of all these things which is creating the present climate, not of hate but of a deep concern that something should be done to guide labor activities along more reasonable lines, for the protection of members as well as for the general weal of the province. If labor leaders do not acknowledge this and exercise their own restraining influence, and most of them are men of honest intent and good will, they could scarcely be surprised if the government were to consider itself impelled by public opinion to employ its sovereign powers in an effort to bring about a more stable and responsible code of labor relations.

An Interim Settlement

DIRECT word from President N. R. Crump that the Canadian Pacific Railway will use the Ss. Princess Marguerite on the day run between Victoria and Vancouver between February 25 and May 15 until the Triangle run is resumed this summer was received in provincial and city circles yesterday. This means that united protests from both cities have won this limited concession and given further time for the working out of an eventual solution to the problem. The move still involves cessation of night boat service to Vancouver, elimination of the CPR Port Angeles ferry, and service to Seattle after the tourist period ends. Filling the two-month gap with the restored Vancouver connection is the only interim concession.

Mr. Crump said that replacing the discarded night boat by the Marguerite would involve an anticipated loss on operating account, and made no undertaking as to what may eventuate after cessation of the Triangle run this fall. Obviously, however, this extension of time in reference to direct Victoria-Vancouver service immediately is being made in response to the vigorous protests which the initial talk of suspension evoked.

Mr. J. N. Fraine, vice-president of the CPR in the west, repeated Mr. Crump's announcement, and went on to add that "alternative service" was being furnished by the CPR through Nanaimo. The whole point of the current protest, however, is that Victoria has not accepted the Nanaimo shunt service in lieu of direct capital city connection. It was this objection which led to calls for a provincially-operated ferry in the first place.

What the present reconsideration will do is to give time for a more orderly and less hectic working out of the factual problems in the case. In that sense, President Crump's announcement will be regarded as progress.

'Douglas Day'

SOME of the dramatic development established by the Province of British Columbia in its first century was indicated well during the celebration of its Centennial Year. The statutory creation now of "Douglas Day" as a yearly commemorative event in the schools, without public holiday, would be a fitting and permanent form of tribute to Sir James Douglas, the first governor to preside over the pioneer administration. The bill fixing November 19 annually as "Douglas Day" no doubt will have the ready assent of the Legislature. A land without gratitude to its roots or a people devoid of interest in their history would be difficult to imagine. B.C. owes a real and tangible debt to its sturdy pioneers.

Interpreting the News

Macmillan's Mission

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

MESSAGE to Moscow from the Western big three this week constitutes an important diplomatic move, but an even more important step is yet to come.

Prime Minister Macmillan's mission to the Soviet Union, scheduled to begin this weekend, is likely to get past the formalities of diplomatic exchange and reveal more of Russian thinking and real aims.

The United States, Great Britain and France have made what is described as a historic move toward compromise on the German question, with their call for a foreign ministers' conference including advisers from the Allied and Communist sections of Germany.

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Now it will be up to the experienced and skilled Macmillan to try to determine whether the Russians are really willing to negotiate in a genuine way, or whether Premier Khrushchev has merely been seeking propaganda advantage all these months.

Evidence continues to mount of a powerful movement in the U.S. for a new look in foreign relations, and this inevitably is complicated by the illness of State Secretary Dulles.

This was underlined with the appointment of Senator J. William Fulbright, who has often been sharply critical of Dulles, as chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee.

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Senator Mansfield, an influential member of the same committee, now has come out with the view that the U.S. needs a basically new policy on Germany. Compromises, says Mansfield, are needed by both East and West Germany.

Dulles himself had been working until his illness in his customary energetic way for a new flexibility in the Western position. He apparently was able to convince West Germany's Chancellor Adenauer that free elections are not specifically necessary as a prelude to German reunification.

The Allies—notably Britain—are prepared to offer Moscow concrete security guarantees against a united Germany.

"It's very simple — we're so far ahead of them that in a couple of years we might catch up"

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

THE Toronto Telegram suggests that only a cad would challenge women engaged en masse in a campaign for feminine rights. Cad is perhaps a needlessly strong word; perhaps in prudence would be nearer the mark.

Did you, being a male, ever stand in the path of a rummage sale rush when the doors were opened? In my innocence I did once, and had to dodge for my life. The invading regiment of women, lipsticked to the last inch, would have swept Genghis Khan out of the way.

It is the lipstick that is the Telegram's cause célebre of the moment, to wit: A kind of pomade, a perfumed ointment, or a rouge, for the lips, put up in stick form.

Every man's handkerchief knows about it.

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The lipstick, says the Telegram, being prudent and not wanting to seem caddish, makes the faces of pretty women even prettier and improves the vista of our daily lives. And Miss Margaret Aitken, MP, doubtless a user of the pomade herself else how could she defend its virtues, recently told her Commons colleagues, bluntly, that it is an essential and not a luxury.

If he were candid and not just bent on evading feminine displeasure probably any man would agree with Miss Aitken. Unlipsticked lips do seem pale, insipid, and quite unlike the cherries that Shakespeare said were made for kissing.

It is only when the pomade slips, the application not having been concluded by that fetching compress of the lips on a fold of tissue, that one might doubt the verity of this adornment of nature's masterpiece.

Nature indeed, unless the modern feminine lip has lost its native hue for lack of ever seeing daylight, has not been too kind to milady. Had her lips been the rosebuds another poet raved about there would be no need for Miss Aitken to argue that a lipstick was vital to feminine existence.

Women, if I may say so, seem to have realized this for a long time, even if a contemporary of Shakespeare and allegedly a wit at that, by name of John Lyly, declared that lips are no part of the head but merely a double-leaf door for the mouth. But perhaps he was just trying to be more witty than usual, or maybe he had been rejected by one of those red-painted double-leaf doors.

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If Miss Aitken needs more help to persuade her fellow MPs, however, she could turn to "The Origin of Things," by happy coincidence written by a man with the name of Lips (Julian E.), a renowned anthropologist. Therein he tells us that the lipstick, this modern accessory of lure, dates back to the ice age!

Nature, quite obviously, never did do Eve justice and she has been righting the balance ever since.

I should explain, of course, that Miss Aitken had a pomade axe to grind. What she was after was that the ten per cent excise tax on lipsticks should come off.

Thinking of that other adjunct to feminine lips, the cigaret, I would applaud if she could manage to get the depressing impost on it lifted too, or at least eased considerably.

Gerald Waring

Reports from Ottawa

THE oil rush into the Arctic isn't only for the big fellows, the Standard Oils and the Texacos. For a nickel an acre you or I or anyone can pick up oil and gas rights in the Arctic islands.

Geologists say more than 200,000,000 acres of land and coastal waters in the Arctic are potential oil fields. Since mid-January the big boys like Texaco, California Standard and Sun Oil have been jostling for huge chunks of this polar waste. But some "thin capital" also has bids in for sizeable parcels. The inference is that these little fellows are speculating in real estate; hoping to sell out their rights—perhaps to some well-heeled late-comer—before they have to put up more money to hold their claims.

A quarter of the best prospects already have gone, in great gobs of from 1,000,000 to 10,000,000 acres. Applicants have descended on Ottawa and plunked down their five cents an acre to establish priorities on exploration permits. But if you want to get into the oil business up there, you still have some 150,000,000 acres of potential oil-bearing sedimentary rock to choose from. For a mere $50,000 you can pick up a million. Acres, that is.

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The big oil interests have been eyeing the Arctic's oil potential with real interest since Suez pointed up the danger of long-term dependence on Middle East oil.

The Arctic rush started slowly and quietly in mid-January. A couple of companies applied for oil and gas exploration permits on the strength of reports that the government would soon publish geological data indicating good possibilities of great volumes of oil underlying the polar islands. The word got around, and others swarmed on Ottawa, cheque books in hand, anxious not to be left at the post.

The government is accepting applications and filing them on a priority basis pending revision of the regulations governing mineral exploration. Each application must be backed by a refundable deposit of 5 cents an acre.

When the government grants a permit under present regulations, it requires that the permit holder spend at least 5 cents an acre on exploration in the first 18 months, and 25 cents an acre in the next 18 months. If he fails to do so, he forfeits his rights and his deposit.

These regulations are being amended to give the permit holders more time in which to carry out the required work. So if you form a little syndicate and snap up some of this 5-cent real estate, you will have more than 18 months in which to find a buyer before your rights revert to the public domain.

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The difficulties of developing an oil source a few hundred miles from the North Pole are enormous, but they don't faze the big operators. "If we find oil in large quantities," one of them said confidently, "we'll find a way to get it out."

They're talking about pipelines to Arctic seaports which tankers could reach during a few weeks each summer. But they're also saying that atomic submarine tankers could sail under the polar ice, just as the U.S. Navy's atomic subs did last year, and deliver Arctic oil to North America and Europe the year round.

The Packsack

Of GREGORY CLARK

IF you are under 60 you don't have to read this. But 30 years ago every backyard in every city and town in Canada had permanent clotheslines strung kitacorner across it. These clotheslines were not rope. They were galvanized wire. They consisted of strands of smaller galvanized wire spiralled together. And from the back door they were strung diagonally across the yard to the far corner, and then back. They stayed there all year. They stayed there 15, 20 years.

The houses they were strung behind were painted every five to 10 years. Dark greens, soft greys, rich browns, even whites.

Now: there are two schools of thought as to why, if you tried to put up a galvanized clothesline today, it would be corroded in three years. And if you painted a house, you would have to paint it again in three years.

The one school of thought maintains that it is the oil furnaces that are filling the air with corrosive fumes, and the motor traffic out in front that spreads destructive chemical gases that corrode clotheslines and wither paints, not to mention all the things they do to lungs, hearts and gall bladders.

The other school of thought is more cynical. It holds that new and improved methods of manufacture in galvanized clotheslines and paints have been developed so that you have to buy more and more wire and more and more paint in order to keep, as they say, the ball rolling.

The great thing is, of course, to have two schools of thought.

Fun, Fact and Fiction

Homes of the 1960s will be lighted by electroluminescence says a "trend" writer. Thus all in one lifetime a man may have progressed from "Blow out the candle" to "Kindly deactivate the electroluminescence."

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Two men, fishing on a Sunday morning, were feeling pretty guilty. One said to the other: "I suppose we should have gone to church."

To which the second angler replied lazily, "Heck, I couldn't have gone to church anyway. My wife is sick in bed."

The go-now, pay-later, vacation plan may be fine—but it must be a little irksome paying for a suntan three months after it has faded.

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A couple on a tour of rural France had their baggage sent to a small inn ahead of them. When they arrived, they were cordially greeted by the manager who assured them with the few English words he knew that he had made every arrangement for their comfort. He had even registered them, taking their names from their luggage: "Mr. and Mrs. Genuine Cowhide."

Washington Angle

Ambassadors Abroad

By DAVID LAWRENCE

THE age-old controversy over the kind of individuals who should be appointed as ambassadors abroad—those with political influence or "career" men—has bobbed up once more.

Strange vaporings of piety are issuing from the holy precincts of the Democratic party on Capitol Hill, especially from the supposedly unpolitical and unpartisan membership of the Senate foreign relations committee.

Theoretically, anyone who has a hand in influencing our foreign relations should be non-political. But, to help accomplish such a utopian state, it would be necessary to ordain that members of the Senate foreign relations committee should themselves take some kind of Socratic oath to bar politics from their comments on world policy, particularly in moments of international tension like the present.

Those who have attended the secret conferences between the president and some of the Democratic members of the Senate foreign relations committee say they have heard no more captious or vitriolic criticisms of the government's policies than are voiced by Democrats in those meetings.

If the advice of some of them were followed, America would gradually appease the Communists by a series of "disengagement" moves that spell "peace at any price." But it is not harmful for such opinions to be expressed in private, obviously partisan as they are. What is more damaging is when public speeches give aid and comfort to the Communists and encourage them to believe they can drive a wedge between the American government and the people.

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Unity and patriotism seem to be obsolete words among the politicians today. Politics, it has often been said, should end at the water's edge, but this is not an era when much attention is being paid to that estimable maxim.

As for political ambassadors, the Democrats had better be careful what they do lest they discourage the flow of campaign contributions in 1960. Many a successful businessman who is close to the age of retirement likes to think of an appointment to an embassy abroad where he and his wife can see something of the diplomatic whirl. The record will show that tens of thousands of dollars were contributed in past campaigns by Democrats who became ambassadors later on. Many of them were really successful at their jobs and some stayed on as "career" men.

As a matter of fact, a man of wide business experience, accustomed to dealing with people in large transactions, has a more acute knowledge of human nature sometimes than a diplomat trained for foreign service work as a lifetime occupation. It is true that some of the politically appointed ambassadors are duds, but the percentage is small. It might be added that some of the "career" men are not always as effective as they should be, despite their years of training.

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In the early days of the republic, men like Benjamin Franklin or John Jay, who later became chief justice, were not the usual type found in the diplomatic service, but they did creditable work for the United States in their posts abroad.

There are many able men who have come up from the ranks as "career" men in the diplomatic service. Some of them have reached top posts and have distinguished themselves in tough situations. Many of them are unsung heroes whose accomplishments are rarely the subject of publicity.

But is also true that some of the ambassadors appointed from the business or academic world have throughout American history rendered valuable service and won the admiration of foreign governments.

The so-called "politically appointed" ambassador always has at his side a number of trained diplomats in his embassy and no ambassador worth his salt would take important steps without consulting his counsellor and other high officers of the mission. The so-called "risks" in political ambassadorships have often been exaggerated.

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Theoretically, politics shouldn't have anything to do with the operation of government. But if that precept be taken literally, the first people who ought to practise self-denial are the members of the Senate foreign relations committee. The millennium might be reached also if the chairmen of the Republican and Democratic national committees were to proclaim solemnly some day that to the victor the spoils do not belong and that only "career" men in the diplomatic service can do no wrong.